

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 SSM-03 HA-05 /085 W  
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R 201259Z JUL 78  
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1358  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1977

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR, PDEF, IS, JO  
SUBJECT: LAND CLOSED NEAR BEIT EL

1. WITHIN THE PAST WEEK, THE AL BIREH MUNICIPALITY HAS BEEN ISSUED AN ORDER BY THE RAMALLAH DISTRICT MILGOV BANNING NEW CONSTRUCTION ON MORE THAN 900 ACRES WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS. MOST OF THE LAND IS NEAR THE NEW ISRAELI SETTLEMENT OF BEIT EL PROMPTING SPECULATION THAT THE BAN MAY BE A PRELUDE TO EXPROPRIATION.

2. ACCORDING TO LAWYER ELIAS KHOURY, WHO HAS BEEN RETAINED BY THE LANDOWNERS AND THE NUNICIPALITY, TWO PARCELS OF LAND ARE INVOLVED; 3,500 DUNAMS (875 ACRES) NORTH OF THE BEIT EL MILITARY CAMP AND 300 DUNAMS (75 ACRES) NEAR THE DISTRICT MILGOV HDQ. PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF ALL THE LAND IS DOCUMENTED, KHOURY SAID, AND ALREADY THERE ARE SEVERAL HOUSES OCCUPIED AND OTHERS UNDER CONSTRUCTION WITHIN THE AREA. OTHER OWNERS HAVE LICENSES PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE MILGOV TO BUILD, HE SAID.

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3. KHOURY SAID HE CONSULTED JULY 19 WITH DURIT BANASH WHOM HE IDENTIFIED AS HEAD OF THE ISRAELI HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, WHO SUBSEQUENTLY RELAYED FROM THE MILGOV FOLLOWING CLARIFICATIONS:

(A) ORDERS WERE ISSUED FOR SECURITY REASONS,

(B) PERSONS WHO HAVE BEGUN CONSTRUCTION WILL BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE, AND  
(C) OTHER APPLICATIONS WILL BE EXAMINED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS BY MILGOV OF RAMALLAH.

4. AL BIREH MUNICIPALITY HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO PROTEST ORDER JULY 19.

5. KHOURY PLANS TO MEET WITH CLIENTS -- SOME OF WHOM MAY BE AMCITS OR HAVE CLOSE RELATIVES WHO ARE AMCITS--JULY 20. HE ANTICIPATES THAT HE WILL RAISE A CASE IN ISRAELI COURTS TO CHALLENGE SECURITY RATIONALE.

6. COMMENT: BEIT EL, ONE OF THE LIKUD/GUSH EMUNIM SETTLEMENTS OSTENSIBLY LOCATED WITHIN A MILITARY CAMP, WAS ESTABLISHED IN NOVEMBER 1977. THE GUSH EMUNIM REPORTEDLY WANTS IT TO DEVELOP INTO A REGIONAL CENTER, HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT REPEAT NOT ONE OF THE SIX PROPOSED SUPER SETTLEMENTS IN THE WEIZMAN PLAN. CONSTRUCTION OF 90 HOUSING UNITS OUTSIDE THE CAMP PERIMETER BEGAN IN MYA 1978. AT THAT TIME, A SETTLER TOLD THE "JERUSALEM POST" NO PRIVATE LAND NEED BE EXPROPRIATED.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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